

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were pending. Claims 1-21 are canceled herein, and claims 22-41 are added herein. Claims 22-41 remain pending in this application.

In an attempt to better describe the inventions, Applicants have canceled claims 1-21 and have added new claims 22-41. Applicants believe the new claims 22-41 are fully supported by the specification, and are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to language in claims 1, 3, 4, and 19 as being unclear. Applicants note that claims 1, 3, 4, and 19 are canceled herein, rendering the objections moot.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over US patent 6,704,908 to Horan et al. Applicants note that claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15, 17, and 18 are canceled herein, rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 4, 10, 16, and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent 6,704,908 to Horan et al. in view of US patent 5,535,337 to Hogan et al. Applicants note that claims 4, 10, 16, and 19-21 are canceled herein, rendering the above rejection moot.

In the present response, Applicants address all of the claim objections and rejections cited in the Office Action. In view of the amendments to the claims and Applicants' remarks, Applicants believe pending claims 22-41 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request allowance of pending claims 22-41.

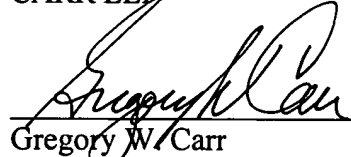
With the amendments to the claims presented herein, there are currently 4 pending independent claims and 20 total pending claims. As the original application had 4 independent claims, Applicants believe no additional fees are due. In the event that any other fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to

credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No.
50-0605 of CARR LLP.

The present amendment is believed to contain a complete response to the issues raised in the Office Action. Full reconsideration is respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any questions, comments or suggestions, the undersigned attorney earnestly requests a telephone conference. In particular, should the Examiner deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is also invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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SERIAL NO. 10/616,881

Amendments To The Drawings

No amendments have been made to the drawings.